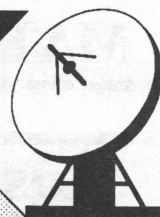


MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9244



VOL. 4, NO. 47

CLASH EDITION

NOV. 20-24

Lex Uses Belt to Keep World Title

STEAMBOAT CRANKS UP; STING TREATED RUDELY

Ricky, Dustin Deck Enforcers

SAVANNAH GA---Turning a packed house at the Savannah Civic Center upside down, Ricky Steamboat returned to WCW by teaming with Dustin Rhodes to defeat the Enforcers for the WCW world tag team championship.

Steamboat replaced the injured Barry Windham and after dramatically removing an outfit to bury his old WWF "Dragon" character, Steamboat cranked up the action and heat a notch in undeniably the best match of the night.

In a match with few lulls with ten two-counts, the turning point came when Steamboat escaped two Boston crabs, atomic-dropped Arn Anderson and rallied to tag Rhodes at the 14-minute mark.

Dustin came in with a lariat, slam and bulldog. Steamboat came in on Larry Zbyszko for a four-way but was tossed over-the-top. However, Rhodes tagged Ricky, who rallied for his dragonfly from the top rope to pin Anderson in 14:50.

A sidebar angle had the Enforcers claiming the titles should not change because Steamboat's name "was not on the contract." But at 10:47 p.m. (ET) on THE WRESTLING HOTLINE, WCW's Wayne Coulter said the belts would remain with Steamboat and Rhodes.

MATCH RATING:
PILEDRIIVER...this match had the most sustained crowd enthusiasm since Sting/Luger vs. Steiners at SUPERBRAWL.

Luger Swings The Gold

SAVANNAH GA---After 11 minutes of stalling and defensive power wrestling, Lex Luger used his WCW world title belt as the decisive weapon to beat Rick Steiner in 11:30 Tuesday night at CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS.

Curtis Hughes was exited from ringside early to leave Scott Steiner as counterpoint to Harley Race.

Luger stalled in much of the first three minutes but his lip was busted by an early Steiner blow. Rick followed with a powerslam and Steinerline to knock Lex out at 3:15. He followed with a near-fall belly-to-back suplex at 6:05.

But Rick was crotched at 6:35 and clotheslined twice. He rallied for a suplex at 8:00 but both men were dazed. Steiner was tossed out and rallied by Luger at 8:50. Rick rallied for a powerslam and bulldog from the top rope for two near-falls. A belly-to-belly pin try ended with Lex's foot on the rope.

Suddenly, Hughes tried to enter and was Frankensteinered by Scott while Rick suplexed Race. But with the referee trying to sort out the confusion, Lex grabbed the title belt to cream Rick for the victory.

MATCH RATING: DRAW. This one didn't start until 10:22 and just couldn't develop. But Luger appeared to blow up early in this one.

Rude Snares U.S. Title

SAVANNAH GA---Capitalizing on an early-show angle, Rick Rude rolled up Sting and held the spandex to win the WCW U.S. heavyweight championship here Tuesday night.

In the angle (see CLASH CLIPS, page 2), Sting had been hauled away by ambulance to a "medical facility" for treatment of a "reinjured knee," but returned after Paul E. Dangerously produced a contract stating Rude would win on a forfeit if Sting did not appear by bell time.

The match was more of a slow brawl as Sting sold the knee injury to perfection. The two traded licks on the runway but Sting's knee collapsed after a military press. Still, Sting kicked Rude off the ramp and turned on the heat.

However, at the 2:33 mark, Rude rallied to post Sting's knee twice. Sting rallied to block a Rude awakening before being poked in the eye. Paul E. conked him hard with his phone at 4:00 but Sting kicked out of a pin try on 2.

Sting scored a DDT but was distracted by a shirt-sleeved Dangerously. Rude kned Sting's knee from behind and rolled him up for the pin with the tights at 4:51.

MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS. These two will have better matches but the level of this one was held down by the length and Sting's sales job with the knee. But a good advancement of storyline.

(More CLASH highlights inside on page 2).

Austin Retains TV Belt With Flair Finish

SAVANNAH---Again copying the Ric Flair feet-on-ropes finish, Steve Austin defeated P.N. News (Paul Neu) in 5:20 here Tuesday night to retain the WCW TV title.

Austin's pre-bell attack was countered by a PNN power move & News posted Steve at 1:30. Austin went for a slam but PNN fell on top for a 2-count. The two battled onto the runway. Steve missed a flying move and P.N. flipped him back in.

A bearhug and belly-to-belly for a near-fall ended when Jeannie Clarke (in her finale) draped Austin's foot on the rope. PNN went after Jeannie but Austin ambushed him with a Randy Savage-type fly over the top. Austin won when PNN missed an Avalanche. **RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS:** Austin is showing promise but the finish has to go.

LUMBERJACK MATCH/BIG JOSH D. THOMAS RICH (6:05): Tommy jumped Matt pre-bell but in the second minute, Matt didn't sell Tommy's blows. Each man was tossed out twice in the first 3 minutes. Matt scored w. a belly-to-belly but Tommy countered by choking w. tape. Steve Armstrong then used the tape on Josh, as well. Surprise! Terrence Taylor tripped Rich at 6:00 and Josh scored the pin w. the Northern Exposure. **RATING: DRAW.**

BOBBY EATON D. CURTIS "CHIP" THOMPSON (4:53): Crowd squarely behind Bobby. Lots of fast, aerial and wrestling moves. Bobby never went heavy heel in this one, since it hasn't happened on TV yet. Bobby scored a two-count with a backbreaker, then won it with a back suplex. **RATING: DRAW-PLUS...**not long but lots in it.

(ANGLE) Madusa Miceli is decoyed as the sender of the mystery boxes to Sting. Madusa comes out in a Barbara Eden genie outfit from a chariot. But as she fondles Sting, Lex Luger ambushes Sting in the knee & pounds it on the runway several times, to set up Sting's loss in the U.S. title match. His interviews may be weak but Luger is arguably the best heel in the business at the moment.

TOM ZENK D. DIAMOND STUD (2:39??): Joined in progress, you might say. This one started before the commercial break and was shown in split-screen while Sting was hauled away in a Chatham County ambulance. Tom won it with a crucifix. **MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD.**

CACTUS JACK D. VAN HAMMER (4:05): A smart finish and Cactus made it a lot better than it could have been. Cactus ambushed Hammer but Van rallied for the Hogan foot-to-face and legdrop for a 2-count. Cactus revived and scored the hipbuster at 2:45. Hammer reverse clotheslined Jack and kneed him in the head for a 2-count. But after a double headcracker, Cactus jabbed Van in the throat with his V-shaped guitar butt for the pin. But Hammer delivered a slingshot on the runway & the two brawled to the locker room. **MATCH RATING: DRAW...**because of Cactus.

WCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE/BRIAN PILLMAN D. JOHNNY B. BADD (5:22): The first hot move was an Air Pillman onto J.B. on the runway. J.B. flipped out of a piledriver and railed Brian. Johnny kned Pillman onto the

CLASH CLIPS

floor but Pillman roared back for a spinkick. Johnny B. rallied for a clothesline off the top but as he went for the pin, Teddy Long began arguing with the ref. Pillman sneaked in, crashed J.B. into Long and clumsily cradled Badd for the pin. After, Johnny B. decked Teddy for causing the loss. This likely launches his for-sure babyface turn. **MATCH RATING: DRAW...**better than you'd think but Mark Merro's still too inexperienced.

SAVANNAH SIDELIGHTS

This was arguably the best CLASH since TEXAS SHOOTOUT in Corpus Christi. While the world title match again did not have a lot of time to develop, there wasn't a bomb match on the show....Talk about cranking one up a notch, Ricky Steamboat stole this show and proved why he never should have been allowed to get away in 1989....The Sting-Rude storyline was well-carved and while it cut into their being able to have a top-quality match, Sting sold the leg injury well and the setup with Luger being the box-sender set up two things: it allowed Sting to lose the U.S. belt without being "destroyed," and opens the door for Luger vs. Sting at WRESTLE WAR at the Taj Mahal in February. ...Paul E. was nothing short of sensational, particularly when he ripped the coat off and his "my good friend Jim Herd" line nearly knocked me off the couch....If Cactus Jack doesn't get the most valuable player award for this group, I don't know who would. Anyone who in 4:30 could make Van Hammer not look bad deserves a bonus....In case you're wondering, Marcus Alexander Bagwell is indeed the former Handsome Stranger's real name....The photography on the show was excellent and the shots of the ambulance leaving and returning were on a par with the WWF, plus the Eric Bischoff graphic and telephone report gave the angle a news quality I happened to like....Ross was like the Jim Ross of the UWF during the world tag title match and the lack of "lines of the week" from him and Schiavone is indicative the show was well-produced....Overall, I felt the pacing was strong and it was hard not to like this show. I used to attend wrestling at the Savannah Civic Center 18 years ago and the crowd was as hot as those I used to remember, particularly for the Jack Brisco-Tim Woods match in 1973....It was either the hottest crowd since the first CLASH or the audio work was much better....Even though hardcores will balk, this CLASH proved they didn't need Ric Flair to have an exciting telecast....Minor glitch: reference that Steamboat previously held the NWA world tag title twice. But correct me, record buffs, if I am wrong--but didn't he hold that title four times before with Jay Youngblood?

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

CROWD ENTHUSIASM.....	4.8
ANNOUNCING.....	4.8
QUALITY OF MATCHES.....	2.9
TOTAL PRODUCTION.....	4.5
OVERALL SHOW EXCELLENCE.....	4.2

TOTAL RATING: 21.2

CHRISTMAS SIX-PACK

Give a Christmas gift of the final six issues of MATWATCH for only \$5. The gift must be to someone other than at your own address. Send check, cash or money order to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305 by Dec. 20.

WWF SAYS TESTING STARTS; BRUNO, MARVEZ SAY SHAM

Titan Sports executives are reacting angrily to a story on the syndicated **ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT** last Thursday which included accusations that the WWF's announced steroid testing program is "a sham."



Hennig Takes Slot As Flair Advisor

STAMFORD CT---Curt Hennig, still nursing a reported severe back injury, is back in the WWF as the new "technical advisor" to Ric Flair.

At tapings in New York last week, Bobby Heenan, who has asked to come off the road as Flair's manager, passed the torch to Hennig.

Flair told the crowd in a show taped for airing the week after Thanksgiving as a preliminary to his Dec. 3 pay-per-view match vs. Hulk Hogan in San Antonio: "Mr. Perfect is the greatest technical wrestler of our time and will be a great technical adviser for me."

WWF spokesperson Steve Planamenta says Hennig will only appear in the role on television bouts, not in arenas.

Steamboat Steams Back to WCW

ATLANTA---Nearly three years after winning the NWA world championship for a 76-day reign, Ricky Steamboat has agreed to terms with World Championship Wrestling, Inc.

Steamboat, who departed the WWF in October after balking at doing a TV job, contacted WCW about a possible return nearly two weeks ago, reportedly informed Titan Sports of his intentions last Friday.

(Continued on Page 4)

In the two-minute piece narrated by ET anchor John Tesh, former WWWF heavyweight champion Bruno Sammartino and Knight-Ridder Newspapers wrestling columnist Alex Marvez challenged the validity of the Titan testing, which was announced as launching last Wednesday in New Haven CT.

WWF spokesman Steve Planamenta responded Friday: "There were a lot of inaccuracies, which will be rectified today." ET was to do a followup on the story Monday night.

Titan jobber Brian Donahue told ET: "It's fine with us. It's fine with everyone in that locker room." But Tesh quoted a WWF spokesperson as saying all WWF wrestlers would be tested Thursday night. However, preliminary wrestler Dusty Wolfe said he was not: "I did not take one personally but as far as I know, they did some."

"Of course, we didn't test Dusty Wolfe," said Planamenta. "He's not under contract to us. He just works on a show-by-show basis. We can't test him. We're only testing the people who are under exclusive contract to us."

Tesh quoted former WWWF heavyweight champion Bruno Sammartino as saying the testing is "an elaborate scheme by the WWF's owner Vince McMahon to end rumors about his biggest stars and allow him to fire less popular wrestlers." In an on-camera comment, Sammartino said: "They'll get rid of a few people and they'll say, ah, they tested positive for steroid drugs. And a lot of the gullible audience out there will believe that they're really doing legitimate drug testing and it's all a sham."

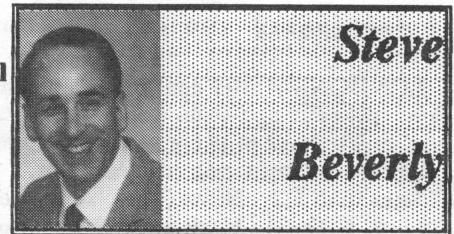
Said Planamenta: "Bruno's said the same thing he's always been saying for a long time now and I don't know that there's anything left to say about that."

Shots aired of Marvez's recent column, in which he quoted insiders as saying nine of ten top wrestlers are on illegal steroids. "The WWF's sister company, the World Bodybuilding Federation has announced that they have had a steroid test in place three times in the last year. It's all a lie. Why should anyone believe the World Wrestling Federation now?"

At deadline, Planamenta said he had not talked to Marvez since the ET story aired but said, reacting to Marvez's and Sammartino's remarks: "There again, to give those guys a fair shake, those comments were taped before we began our testing."

The WWF p.r. chief also challenged why ET ran the story before talking to testing officials. "They (ET's producers) really got caught with their drawers down," said Planamenta. "They spoke to our doctors today and spoke to Vince. I talked to the producer and asked him why he

(Continued on Page 4)



THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES (Continued from Page 3)

Steamboat Returns

Steamboat is still technically under contract to the WWF through December but MATWATCH has learned technicalities have voided the pact.

For an analysis of the Steamboat return, see *PINFALL PROFILE* in the adjoining column.

Ross Returns From London Setup Tour

LONDON---Chief commentator Jim Ross has returned from a five-day advance tour in England to prepare for next month's WCW week-long swing in December.

Ross took P.N. News (Paul Neu) and Johnny B. Badd (Mark Merro) for appearances on TVAM, a British morning show, and a Saturday night prime time show.

WCW plays the Olympian Royal Hall Dec. 10-12, Sheffield Dec. 13 and Dublin, Ireland Dec. 14.

FINAL MATWATCH RATES

Check your mailing label. If you wish to subscribe to MATWATCH through its closing issue Jan. 27, 1992, the cost is \$12 if your mailing label shows FINAL ISSUE (\$18 overseas).

Otherwise, renewals will be taken at the following rates through the closing issue ONLY. Here are the renewal prices:

From Issue Date	U.S./Canada	Overseas
11/25/91	\$11.00	\$16.50
12/2/91	\$10.00	\$15.00
12/9/91	\$8.75	\$13.50
12/16/91	\$7.50	\$12.00
12/23/91	\$6.25	\$10.50
12/30/91	\$5.00	\$9.00
1/6/92	\$3.75	\$7.00
1/13/92	\$2.50	\$5.00
1/20/92	\$1.25	\$3.00

Check, cash or money order to:
MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE,
JACKSON TN 38305.

Please PRINT name and address
CLEARLY on your orders.

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 3)

ignored our story. Why he did, I still don't know. He told us, 'I've got this guy Dusty Wolfe who says he didn't get tested' but he didn't consider why. If you were to look at that story the way they presented it, it makes us look like we're lying when we weren't. With the doctors we have in place and the system of testing we've employed and the expense we're going to with it, it's indefensible to charge that we're not doing what we say we are. The team of physicians is beyond reproach of anyone."

Monday night, in a followup report, Hulk Hogan said he wanted his test results released, though McMahon said they would remain private. McMahon denied any top WWF stars would be protected. Ric Flair and Jim Duggan also said they welcomed the tests. Planamonta told MATWATCH he is uncertain how long it will be until results are known.

Pinfall Profile

Steamboat: A Different Return

Thirty-four months ago, amid the boost of a new, big-money owner, and the hope of a new creative direction, the signing of Ricky Steamboat by the National Wrestling Alliance was heralded as an era of transformation for the senior circuit.

Steamboat's Jan. 21, 1989 TBS tag team win with Eddie Gilbert over Ric Flair and Barry Windham, in which Steamboat pinned Flair, was said to be a turning point for the NWA. His dramatic Feb. 20 victory over Flair for the NWA world title in Chicago effectively snuffed out the Dusty Rhodes era of inconclusive match finishes. Or did it?

The three nationally-televised Steamboat-Flair meetings and their three months of five-star battles in arenas did not draw sellout crowds but were laying a foundation on which WCW failed to construct a building.

Personally, I felt Steamboat was handed a raw deal by hardcore fans during his last tour. Many of the same ticketbuyers who marveled at the nearly-breathtaking action between the two Charlotte residents excoriated Steamboat for his character counterpoint to Flair as a promoter of family virtues. The night he won the NWA title, he received respectful cheers, though a ringsiders were heavily pro-Flair. But the minute he called for his son to be brought to the ring, Steamboat was unmercifully booed.

A couple of months ago on a Las Vegas radio show with Ric Carter and Bill Kunkel, I used this as an illustration of today's adult mat fan, who leans toward favoring heels. As I told Ric and Bill, there's nothing wrong with cheering top heel performers. Heavens, Steamboat heard the boos when he had that marvelous WWF series with Randy Savage. But I don't know what it says about us when a man espouses positive life values and the family unit in a wrestling storyline and takes the enormous criticism Steamboat has. Frankly, I don't feel it speaks very highly of us.

His short-term return to the WWF was viewed with skepticism by many veteran observers who never believed Vince McMahon would raise him to the level to have a classic series with a Curt Hennig. Frankly, it was painful to watch him have to breathe fire and gargle Listerine afterward.

Steamboat's WCW return can be viewed two ways. First, he does give WCW a world-class worker who has strong appeal to traditional NWA fans. Second, on top of what could be a heat-inducing series between Rick Rude and Sting, Steamboat brings possibilities of the feud that was never finished: Steamboat vs. Luger. WCW has tape of the angle which ended the *GUTS & GLORY CLASH* in 1989 where Luger turned on Ricky. And the followup *BASH: GLORY DAYS* bout where Steamboat turned the tables and chased Lex to the locker room with a chair. Or, he could lead the promising Steve Austin to his strongest WCW TV title series to date.

Then, again, if Steamboat is simply locked in as a tag partner for Dustin Rhodes or others, he'll simply be one of the boys and that would be tragic. For a promotion which vitally needs a veteran name and talent to raise its standards back to those it has lost in the last 18 months, it can only be hoped WCW will take the high road.

MATWATCH

Page 5/Vol. 4, No. 46/Nov. 18-24

IDIOTS

Nov. 11-19

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]:

Kerry Von Erich d. Bob Smedley;

(SPECIAL REPORT) Ric Flair-Jim

Neidhart match where Neidhart attacked by Beverly Bros.;

Skinner Keirn d. Eric Freedom; Tito Santana d. Brian

Costello; Big Bully Busick d. Kramer; (SURVIVOR

SERIES REPORT); Ted DiBiase/I.R. Schyster d. Bush-

whackers. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: Rockers d. Barry Horowitz/Mark Buenavera

but Sean Michaels primps out of corner when Marty Jannetty

goes to tag. The two argue & shove after; Repo Man d. Jim

Powers; (FEATURE) Sgt. Slaughter leads Pledge in school &

kids hug him; I.R.S. d. Greg Valentine by DQ when Big Boss-

man runs in after I.R.S. nails Greg w. briefcase during ref

bump; Natural Disasters d. Tom Stone/Curt Stiles; Davey Boy

Smith d. Mike Samples; (UPDATE) Gene Okerlund on Flair-

Neidhart-Beverlys angle; (SEG) Jack Tunney says he's taking

Randy Savage issue "under advisement;" (FUNERAL PARLOR)

Flair interrupts Hulk Hogan spot w. Paul Bearer. As Hulk

begins to respond, Undertaker emerges from casket & ambushes

w. urn & the two rip Hulk's t-shirt & crucifix from his neck.

The two begin to drop disdainfully onto Hulk until Randy

Savage/Roddy Piper save from broadcast booth; Davey Boy

Smith d. Mike Samples. POWERSLAM.

(LPWA) - Bambi/Malaya Hosaka d. Judy Martin/Lelani Kai;

Misty Blue Simmes d. Nasty Kat LeRoux; Magnificent Mimi

d. Alma Alvarez; Bad, Black & Beautiful d. Mighty Mites;

Reggie Bennett d. Judy Martin; Terri Power d. Candi Divine.

RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: {RECAPS} 1. Mar-

cos Villas fires Max Andrews as GWF commissioner. 2. Bill

Irwin/Black Bart/Rattlesnake Raitz no contest vs. John

Tatum/Rod Price/Sweet Daddy Falcone; 3. Falcone/Irwin/

Price destroy Larry Greene; (FIRST-RUN) Price/Falcone d.

Manuel Villalobos/Bill Tanner; Raitz d. Mike Stetson;

Scott Anthony d. Terry Garvin; (NEWSROOM) Joe Pedicino

on Max Andrews, Sid Justice's injury, Gene Anderson's

death; Steven Dane d. Rick Garren; Bull Pain d. Terry

Daniels; Eddie Gilbert d. Sam Houston by chloroforming

Sam during ref bump. DRAW.

(NEW PWTW) - [GA/1990] Mr. Wrestling II d. Hunter

Thompson; (GLOBAL) Chris Walker/Steve Simpson d. Dogs

of War; (CLASSIC) Dick the Bruiser d. Johnny Valiant;

(LPWA) Bambi d. Magnificent Mimi (DQ); (CALGARY)

Bruce Hart d. Goldie Rogers; (GLOBAL/6-MAN) Irwin/

Bart/Raitz no contest vs. Price/Tatum/Falcone;

(POINT/COUNTERPOINT) Steven DeTruth/Scott Hudson

debate Max Andrews. RESTHOLD.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - Match details not available.

AWA ended syndication & ceased business Nov. 18. NO

RATING.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - Tim & Tom Driggers d. Sonny T/Rick

Thames; Penelope Paradise double DQ vs. A.J. Watson &

the 2 brawl to pullapart. Tommy Rogers/Superstar separate.

NO RATING.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - [REPEAT of 8/18]: German Storm-

troopers d. Jimmy Johnson/Tyrone Kono; Rob Zakowski

draw vs. Ricky Nelson; Ricky Starr d. Terminator; Wahoo

McDaniel d. Brad Anderson by DQ; Chris Chavis d.

Smasher Stone; Manny Fernandez d. David Isley. BOMB.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: El Gigante d. Doug Sommers;

Cactus Jack d. Scott Sandlin; Van Hammer d. Greg Sawyer;

(WNN) Gordon Solie on Barry Windham injury, Paul E.

Dangerously/Rick Rude; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. dreams

of giving Lex Luger clothesline while playing w. Luger doll;

Rick Steiner d. John

Faulkner; (CAGE/6-

MAN) Big Josh/Tom

Zenk/Dustin Rhodes

d. York Foundation.

RESTHOLD.

[WORLD WIDE]:

Hammer d. Peterson; El G d. Mike Fever; (6-MAN) Rhodes/

Zenk/Bobby Eaton d. Arn Anderson/Larry Zbyszko/Steve Austin

but Larry/Steve double on Dustin after while Bobby just watches;

(6-MAN) York Foundation d. Lynn Fields/Larry Santo/Joey

Mags; (SUBMIT OR SURRENDER) Curtis Hughes d. P.N.

News when Harley Race decks Steve Armstrong, who had come

to ringside, snatches towel & tosses it in. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - Spirit of America d. Tony Falk. After,

Spirit challenges Eric Embry; (SEGMENT) Jeff Jarrett says

he'll briefly put aside quest for USWA title to team with

Jerry Lawler in tag playoff for Japan tourney berth; Jeff

Jarrett d. Billy Travis using chain when ref looks away after

Embry bashes Jeff w. guitar; Spirit d. Embry by DQ when

Falk runs in. Bill Dundee saves w. trash barrel; Gravedig-

ger d. Chris Frazier & after, shovels dirt on Chris & stuffs

in bodybag; (USWA TAG TITLE) Doug Masters/Bart Sawyer

draw vs. Robert Fuller/Dundee. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [11/11]: {REPLAY} Pedicino unveils

tape of collusion between Andrews and Anthony; Eddie

Gilbert d. Irwin; Soultaker d. Tony George; Gary Young d.

Rod Price; Renegades d. Maulers. After, two refs are beaten

& out-of-control brawl ends w. Warriors laying. DRAW.

[11/12]: Marcos Villas fires Max Andrews as GWF commis-

ioner; Maulers d. Ben Jordan/Daniels; Chaz/Garvin d. Davis Bros.;

Renegade Warriors d. Barry Horowitz/Ed Robinson; Raitz d.

Falcone; Stranger d. Summers; Al Perez d. Dane. DRAW.

[11/18]: {CLIP} Lightning Kid d. Chaz; Houston d. Sum-

mers; (6-MAN) Irwin/Bart/Raitz d. Robinson/Horowitz/Alex

Porteau; Lightning d. Todd Overbow; Patriot d. Falcone by

DQ when Skandor Akbar holds Del's foot. Patriot chases

Falcone after; (GLOBAL TAG TITLE) Chris Walker/Steve

Simpson d. Tatum/Price. DRAW-PLUS.

[11/19]: Same as Sat. on GLOBAL/SYN.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: {SUBMIT OR SURREN-

DER} Eaton d. Johnny B. Badd when he gets up first during

doublecount; Austin d. Peterson; (REPLAYS) 1. Steiner d.

Lex Luger. 2. Steiner d. Hughes; Arachnabrad d. Thomas

Rich; (MISSY DOES MAIL) York Foundation d. Zenk/

Rhodes/Josh for 6-man title; (REPLAY) Paul E. introduces

Rick Rude; Rude d. Todd Champion. DRAW.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Cactus d. T.C. Carter; Arachna-

brad d. Pat Rose; Rhodes d. Sawyer; (ANGLE) Anderson tells

Dustin to find another line of work & slaps him. Dustin gets in

ring but Arn walks away; Hughes d. Buddy Baker; (5-MAN)

Brian Pillman/Mike Graham d. Badd/Diamond Stud/Teddy

Long when J.B. accidentally KO's Teddy when Pillman ducks.

Stud then elbow drops Teddy; Steiner d. Oz; Big Van

Vader/Austin d. P.N. News/Zenk; Rude d. Steve Armstrong;

Hammer d. George South; Sting d. Rich; (WCW MAGAZINE)

Eric Bischoff on CLASH card, Steiner d. Luger, Paul E./Rude.

[MAIN EVENT]: {WCW TV TITLE} Austin d. Tracy Smo-

thers to retain belt; (REPLAY) Steiner d. Luger; Madusa

Miceli d. Judy Martin; (ROSS REPORT) Jim w. Cactus

Jack; Cactus d. Zenk. DRAW-PLUS.

MATWATCH

Page 6/Vol. 4, No. 46/Nov. 20-24

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME/The McMahon Group: 11/18]: {OPEN} Debate over Flair/Undertaker attack on Hogan; DiBisce/L.R.S. d. Whackers; Virgil d. Steve Dupree; (UP-DATE) Beverlys attack Neidhart; Santana d. Hercules; Legion of Doom d. Ben Jordan/Stiles; (S.S. REPORT) Flair's "real" world title belt digitized out; Rockers double DQ vs. Beverlys; (FUNERAL PARLOR) Replay from SUPERSTARS; (I-C TITLE) Bret Hart d. Keirn; Von Erich d. Big Bully Busick; Jake Roberts d. Freedom; (FEATURE) Slaughter in classroom. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Craig Johnson/Scott Hudson, MLW: (CJ) "Steven Dane recently lost the Korean heavyweight championship to Le Duc Soo." (SH) "I think I had that for lunch...with sweet-and-sour." 2. Ric Flair, SOW, to Hulk Hogan: "You don't know how long I've waited for this moment. You don't know how long. Don't be ashamed of it, big guy. But I'm the guy that burst that bubble you've been living in. I'm here on the doorstep." 3. Scott Anthony/Johnson, MLW, on finishing move on Terry Garvin: (SA) "I call it the Palm Beach Headthrob because he'll be getting some Bufferin, Anacin and Advil later and it still won't help." (CJ) "Did you get paid for those endorsements?" 4. Paul E. Dangerously, WCW: "Ever since I've been back here, people have said, 'We need you back on WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING. We need you to save us from Captain Oklahama.'" 5. Arn Anderson, WCW, to Dustin Rhodes: "Children, until they reach puberty, should be seen and not heard." 6. Anthony, MLW, to Hudson: "You just sit there in all your baldness and listen to me." 7. Johnson/Anthony/Eddie Gilbert, GLOBAL: (CJ) "Armdrag!" (SA) "Or as Coach John Heath would say, a wingover takedown." (CJ) "Wingover takedown sounds like something that happens in Japan." (EG) "Boy, that just made me hungry for some chicken." 8. Cactus Jack, PH, to Van Hammer: "You're just a pimple on the cheek of wrestling." 9. Jim Ross, JIM ROSS SHOW, on Tony Schiavone co-hosting WME w. Missy Hyatt: "Tony has five children. He knows how to handle an infantile mentality." 10. Schiavone, WWW, on El Gigante: "When you stand 7-feet-7, you're often missed when you're not home."

11. Steven DeTruth, PWIW, on Sid Justice's injury: "Sid received the injury 'wrestling,' for lack of a better term." 12. Schiavone, WWW, on Jeannie Clarke: "That kiss was not blown this way...but we would take it, now wouldn't we?" 13. Ross, JRS: "It's like watching an Italian movie with all the subtitles on our pay-per-views." 14. Ross, JRS, on BRUISE CRUISE: "Tony, maybe you and I could impersonate Chuck Woolery and have a LOVE CONNECTION." 15. Schiavone, JRS, on Hyatt: "It's an adventure just standing beside her." 16. Corey Macklin, WMC, on Nate the Rat's white rats: "Those things'll bite you." 17. Dusty Wolfe, ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT, on WWF steroid tests: "I did not take one personally but, as far as I know, they did some." 18. Hulk Hogan, ET, on releasing his steroid test results: "Because my name was trashed and drug through the media, I think it would end all the speculation." 19. Flair, ET: "Test. I'm the cleanest thing going." 20. Vince McMahon, ET, on testing: "It shows we care about our wrestlers...and we care about our public."

21. Piper, PTW, on Jack Tunney: "How long does it take this guy to make a decision? He should be in the Senate." 22. Paul E., CLASH XVII: "My attorneys are in the back...my good friend, Jim Herd..." 23. Ricky Steamboat, WRESTLING HOTLINE: "It's good to be back home."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Bruno Sammartino, ET, on WWF steroid testing: "They'll let a couple of guys go and the gullible audience will say, 'Oh, they must have tested positive for steroids.' It's all a sham." 2. Alex Marvez, ET: "The WWF's sister organization, the World Bodybuilding Federation has said it's had steroid tests in place three times in the last year. It's all a lie. Why would anyone believe the WWF now?" 3. Flair, SOW: "What you gonna do, Hulk Hogan, when Ric Flair runs wild on you? WOOO!" 4. Paul E., WCW: "Louisiana gets a new governor. Clarence Thomas is on the Supreme Court. And the entire board of directors of WCW tells me to go to hell." 5. Paul E., WRESTLING TALK, on WCW suspension: "Just to make it personal, I burned all my Jane Fonda tapes." 6. Gilbert, GLOBAL: "I've run my mouth. I've cost some people their jobs." 7. Ross, JRS, on CLASH card: "We don't have parity---we have some peaks and a few valleys."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Cactus Jack, PH, to Hammer: "How many nights do you spend tucked away in the trunk of your BMW?" 2. Anthony, MLW, to Hudson: "What's that red dot on the top of your head?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. SOUTHERN FRIED SWEATHOGS (Rick Rude on Center Stage fans). 2. PALM BEACH HEADTHROB (Scott Anthony on finishing maneuver). 3. PAUL E. TURNER (Paul E. on himself). 4. CAPTAIN OKLAHOMA (Paul E. on Ross). 5. SKINHEAD DANGEROUSLY (Ross on Paul E.) 6. VINCE McMANNEQUIN (Curt Hennig on McMahon).

PASSWORDS OF THE WEEK - 1. Ross, PH: ORATATION. "Thank you, Peanuthead, for that beautiful ORATATION." 2. Ross, WCW: GENERALLING. "Real smart ring GENERAL-LING. Well, that's probably not a word. Oh, well, Ross blew another one."

BEST PICTURES - 1. SOW, Hogan/Flair/Undertaker angle. 2. WCW, Teddy Long w. aviator helmet in match. 3. MLW, Sam Houston pinning Eddie Gilbert six times during ref bumps. 4. WMC, Jeff Jarrett using chain to deck Billy Joe Travis. 5. SUNCOAST PRO, Penelope Paradise/A.J. Watson pullapart. 6. WCW, Paul E. yelling to Steve Armstrong he'd lose just like the Atlanta Braves. 7. WCW, Rick Rude railing Steve Armstrong.

PINOCCHIO AWARD - Schiavone, WWW: "We know that Barry Windham is still competing in the ring."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - MLW, for graphic of Scott Anthony vs. Terry Garvin when Dane vs. Garren in ring.

BEST INNOVATIONS - CLASH XVII, Split-screen of match while Sting loaded in ambulance and telephone report & graphic w. Eric Bischoff at hospital.

BLOOPER AWARD - Rick Steiner, WCW PRO, for calling Curtis Hughes "BIG CAT."

NITPICK OF THE WEEK - For three years, I've told people in WCW and TBS about this: either TBS needs to change the title of its specials to THE CLASH OF CHAMPIONS or WCW's announcers and wrestlers should refer to them as CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS, as they're billed. Either get the title right or change it.

BOO AWARD - 1. USWA, for bad taste of The Gravedigger. 2. CLASH XVII, for joining Zenk-Stud match in progress. However, the split-screen on the Sting situation made up for it.

STEAMBOAT'S DEAL: As of Saturday, when Ricky Steamboat's deal had not been finalized, the contract was scheduled to run through June 30 of next year. Certainly, Rick has to wonder what his status will be when Barry Windham and Ron Simmons return to full health.

A LOSS OF A FACE: Sorry to hear of good friend Scott Hudson's decision to back off from the Global color mike after the first of the year. Scott has been the best new person in his field this year but for a newlywed, the travel demands every other weekend to Dallas are difficult.

WALKER ADVANCES: Chris Walker's audition with the WWF extends to its West Coast tour. Chris still has not been offered a full pact but GWF folks don't expect him back. Expect John Tatum/Rod Price to get GWF tag belts.

AS FOR THE PATRIOT: Del Wilkes has been told a slot is not open for him on the WWF roster now but he could be contacted again after the first of the year.

OTHER BOUTS: As of last Friday, Steve Planamenta still did not have the remainder of the bouts for the Hogan-Flair toplined Dec. 3 pay-per-view in San Antonio.

THE \$25,000,000 PYRAMID: Actually it's closer to \$40 million, the cost of the new Memphis building Titan will the debut in Dec. 6. I'll be in the crowd that evening.

LPWA TAPING: The ladies' circuit tapes here in Jackson at Oman Arena Nov. 30. Bambi will miss, along with the previously mentioned Terri Power and Reggie Bennett (both in Japan) but Wendi Richter makes her LPWA debut here.

ICWA TAPING: A crowd of 200 turned out last Thursday to see Coconut Man d. Mark Starr in a loser-leave-for 30 days match; Rocky Johnson d. Sonny King; Long Riders d. Kenny Kendall/Rob Von Bomb; Pat Tanaka d. Jim Backlund to retain the ICWA light heavy title; and in an ICWA heavyweight tourney bout, Dick Slater d. Hurricane Walker.

LUCHA ON TBS: Well, sorta. TBS' NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER aired a feature on the Lucha Libre wrestlers this past Saturday morning.

INCHING CLOSER: The Jeff Jarrett turn moves closer. Saturday on WMC, he reluctantly agreed to team with Jerry Lawler in a tourney Monday night at the Mid-South Coliseum. But later, after recovering from an El Kabong by Eric Embry, Jeff used a chain to beat Billy Joe Travis.

TURNABOUT: It used to be the WWF would steal or adapt Memphis characters. But Nate the Rat's Gravedigger is a taste bud lower than The Undertaker. He brings a body bag out but also carts a wheelbarrow full of dirt and shovels it onto his victim.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: In a tourney for a berth in a Japan tourney, the first-round pairings had Bill Dundee/Spirit of America vs. Super Team; Travis/Gravedigger vs. Dutch Mantel/Robert Fuller; Embry/Kimala vs. Jimmy Valiant/Tom Prichard; Doug Masters/Bart Sawyer vs. Lawler/Jarrett. A local Toyota dealership sponsored the night, so general admission tickets were only \$2.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SKED: Manny Fernandez's group

was skedded to tape Monday night at the Marinedome in Cherry Point NC.

MAIN EVENTS: Last Saturday's WCW show was taped Nov. 11. The same night several MAIN EVENT matches were taped, including Dustin Rhodes vs. Bobby Eaton and Terrence Taylor vs. Scott Allen but Alexandra York was not with Taylor.

ALSO ON THE BILL: Diamond Stud (Scott Hall) worked in three of four matches. First, Stud/Dallas Page vs. Larry Santo/Terry Bronson; then P.N. News/Tom Zenk vs. Stud/Johnny B. Badd, which cements the J.B.B. turn; and finally, a P.N.N. vs. Stud affair in which J.B.B. runs in.

HOW'S YOUR BODY CLOCK?: If Ross wondered what day it was on the CLASH, who could blame him? He flew back from London Sunday, then had to fly to Savannah for the CLASH, fly back after to do TV Wednesday.

IT'S NOT THE POST OFFICE: Because of a quick trip I had to make Monday, we delayed publication until after the CLASH to get it in this issue. So, if you're getting yours two days late, that's why.

BLOSSOM WILTS: Jeannie Clarke was let go by WCW last Tuesday. Earlier, she thought she'd be kept on to Dec. 15 but the CLASH was her apparent swan song.

INTO FLORIDA: At the ICWA tapings last week, Koko B. Ware and Johnny Stewart were announced to join the previously-named Kevin Sullivan at the next TVs.

PICTURE TALKING: Tom Burke and Dan Reilly were pictured in the national radio tabloid, TALKERS, for their WRESTLERADIO talker on WNNZ-AM in Springfield MA.

FRIDAY IN DALLAS: Sam Houston was taunted by Bull Pain's Samantha at Global tapings. She said, "You wouldn't know a real woman if you saw one." Sam answered, "It's obvious after looking at you, Bull Pain wouldn't know a real woman if he had one." Later in the night in a Pain-Houston match, Chris Love (who's back) causes Sam to lose.

BART FLIES OFF: In a dark angle, Black Bart began to take off clothes, one-by-one, until he reached his tights, and threatened to remove it all if Rod Price didn't get into the ring. This Friday, they'll have a branding iron-vs.-numbachucks match. Turnout Friday: around 800.

NICK TO RETURN: Nick Busick has been given a clean release from Titan and is expected to rejoin Global. WWF has not settled on a replacement.

A LEAKY NIGHT: You can't always avoid the rain indoors. Boni Blackstone suddenly found herself feeling splashed from an air vent above Friday night in her and Joe's hotel room. Seems the folks in the room above began filling their tub and it began leaking down through the vent.

BROTHERLY LOVE: As of the weekend, Kevin Von Erich was headed into the WWF to join Kerry.

LADIES WEEK: Ross said Sunday night on his show the bookings for Bruise Cruise is 85% female.

BACKLUND'S RETURN: Dennis Corraluzzo has Bob Backlund vs. Jerry Lawler booked Dec. 10 in Drexel Hill PA & Backlund-Dick Murdoch for Dec. 11 in Clementon NJ.

MATWATCH

Page 8/Vol. 4; No. 46/Nov. 20-24

MATWATCH Memory

A LEGENDARY BRUISER IS GONE

When he was bad, he was real bad. But he was one of the rare breed of mat legends who was so bad he was good. The tributes have poured in after the death of Dick (The Bruiser) Afflis at 62.

Ratings Rap

WCW DOES IT AGAIN

If there's such a thing as being on a roll, it's a title earned by the Saturday edition of **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING**. WCW roared to its seventh Nielsen cable ratings title in the last eight weeks for the period ending Nov. 11.

WCW's 2.9 rating and 5.7 share was down 7% from the previous week but still enough to ease past runner-up **ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING** (2.5/6.2).

PRIME TIME WRESTLING continued to match its low average last Monday with its 2.2/3.2. WCW MAIN EVENT tied PTW's rating and posted a 3.8% share.

WCW POWER HOUR was down 6% to a 1.6/5.8.

CABLE

Week Ending Nov. 11	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
WCW Wild Champ. (TBS 11/9)	2.9/5.7	1.67 million	2.9/5.8
WWF All-American (USA 11/10)	2.5/6.2	1.44 million	2.2/6.1
WCW Main Event (TBS 11/10)	2.2/3.8	1.27 million	2.3/4.1
WWF Prime Time (USA 11/11)	2.2/3.2	1.27 million	2.1/3.1
WCW Power Hour (TBS 11/9)	1.6/5.8	917,300	2.1/8.0

1991 Annual

MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER

Who have been the most influential people during the four years of MATWATCH? What will our TV choices of the future likely be when it comes to the mat game? These are only two of the questions explored in our final annual, **MATWATCH: THE FINAL CHAPTER**, which will be published in late February.

We'll also have some familiar features: our picks for the top 15 TV news stories of 1991, our naming of a **MATWATCH MAN OF THE YEAR** and the shows you missed in the annual schedule for the Wrestling Broadcasting System.

PRICE: \$13 (U.S./CANADA), \$21 (OVERSEAS).

Check, cash or money order to:

MATWATCH
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

Please specify on a card or on the "FOR" portion of your check that it is for the annual.

The Associated Press confirmed Afflis' death Nov. 12 of internal bleeding from a ruptured blood vessel in his esophagus after a weightlifting session.

Afflis did not get his nickname from wrestling but from his years as an offensive lineman with the Green Bay Packers (1951-54).

He became one of the biggest heels in wrestling in 1954 with a bulldog-like grimace and rusted pipe voice. He and Crusher Reggie Lisowski proved one of the most formidable teams in the history of the AWA and their feud with Harley Race and Larry Hennig was the one in which the fans made the Bruiser-Crusher combo favorites.

MATWATCHer Dan Betke recalls a 1978 period when the AWA was the only wrestling on local TV in Chicago. "Sam Menacker interviewed the Crusher and Dick," writes Betke. "Both of them were holding two beer kegs on their shoulders, saying they were in training for a match with Nick Bockwinkel and Bobby Heenan in a cage at the Amphitheatre. After the match, they said, they were going to start a Conga line and dance to every bar on Halstead Street."

Reader George Zacharias classed Bruiser with top heels of several decades. "Florida had the Great Malenko," said Zacharias. "We had Dick the Bruiser. In his day, he was our version of Gorilla Monsoon and Bruiser Brody."

In the South, we could only read of Dick the Bruiser in newsstand magazines or hear of him from occasional mentions Gordon Solie. In 1973, Ann Gunkel billed the Bruiser for her All-South promotion but he never appeared.

Our chance to see Dick the Bruiser finally came in the summer of 1973 on the fourth of the first series of five Omni cards. His opponent: Bruno Sammartino, in one of his few appearances ever in Atlanta. Bruno won it but not without every eye-gouging, arm-posting tactic in the business by Afflis. He gave us a show that night and aside from Andre the Giant's debut in Atlanta, we went home with our memories of two legends we'd never previously seen. Dick the Bruiser gave class to the word heel. And it's far too early for next year's Cauliflower Alley Club to have his name on the roll call of the departed. He is already missed.

MATWATCH
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON TN
PERMIT NO. 50

David Skolnick
221 Stowe Ave. #A-1
Troy, NY 12180
1/27/92

FIRST CLASS MAIL